

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Office of Services to the Aging
7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Room 2D Lansing
October 19, 2007

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

At the request of Chairperson Kennedy, Commissioner Walters will be acting Chair for today's meeting. Chairperson Kenney is unable to attend today's meeting due to a death in her family,

Commissioner Walters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and extended the Commission's deepest sympathies to Chairperson Kennedy. Commissioner Walters reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Owen Bieber, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Chun-Keung Leung, Anthony Pawelski, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Cheryl Bollinger, Jerutha Kennedy, Albert Lewis, Donald Newport, and Thomas Rau

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAF PRESENT

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, Peggy Brey, Sharon Gire, Dan Doezema, Laura McMurtry, Lynne McCollum, Wendi Middleton, Sarah Slocum, and Holliace Spencer

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Amy Mills, Susan Steinke, Hollis Turnham, Kate White

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve today's agenda. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Verma seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire welcomed everyone and shared the following:

- ❖ Update on the State budget.

- ❖ OSA has received two grants: Nursing Home Diversion Grant and Model Approaches to Legal Assistance Grant. Both will be covered later in the meeting.
- ❖ Ismael Ahmed was named new director for Michigan Department of Human Services, with Stanley Stewart as the new Deputy Director. Director Gire met with Deputy Director Stewart and staff of Focus Hope to discuss expansion of the MiCafe program, which assists older adults in getting food assistance through the federal Food Stamp Program.
- ❖ Staff has been working to develop the 2007 OSA Annual report due in January 2008.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Revised MMAP, Inc. Core Grant Award for FY 2007-08

Wendi Middleton, OSA staff, requested approval of a revision of the 2007-08 grant allocation to MMAP, Inc. for the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified OSA of an increase in the amount awarded to OSA on October 5, 2007. The revised grant is \$972,587 and represents an increase of \$13,996 from the amount previously approved by the Commission in April, 2007.

Ms. Middleton noted the additional funds will be used to continue core MMAP activities and support MMAP counselors at the local level to provide outreach, education and assistance to seniors seeking assistance with Medicare/Medicaid-related issues, long term care coverage and the new prescription drug coverage program Medicare Part D.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pawelski to approve the revised MMAP, Inc. Core Grant Award for FY 2007-08 and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed with clarification of which agencies will receive the additional funds. Ms. Middleton stated the additional funds will be allocated to the area agencies on aging by MMAP, Inc.

Approval of Model Approaches to Legal Assistance Grant Award

Lynne McCollum, OSA staff, announced that OSA was awarded a three-year competitive grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA) for Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems in the amount of \$339,894 with allocations awarded on an annual basis. Ms. McCollum stated funding in the amount of \$115,043 is available for the first year which runs from October 1, 2007 to May 30, 2008. Commission approval is requested to award all of the funding to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. (ELM) to support the Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors (LHMS). The LHMS provides free legal advice and information to adults aged 60 and older in Michigan. These funds will also support a state-level Elder Rights Coalition (ERC), a senior citizen legal needs assessment, and will allow enhancement of LHMS services to a direct answer system.

Ms. McCollum noted in past years that ELM applied directly to AoA for the funds to support the legal hotline. However, AoA now requires that legal hotline programs partner with and apply through state units on aging to receive these funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Model Approaches to Legal Assistance Grant Award to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. and seconded by Commissioner Bieber. The Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed. Ms. McCollum stated she will provide the Commission with materials about the hotline and attend a future meeting to discuss hotline services in more detail.

Approval of AoA Nursing Home Diversion (NHD) Grants

Peggy Brey, OSA Deputy Director, announced that OSA was awarded a Nursing Home Diversion Grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA), in the amount of \$500,000 for eighteen months beginning October 1, 2007 through March 2009. Deputy Director Brey noted that Michigan was one of 12 states to be awarded this grant.

Deputy Director Brey stated that OSA will partner with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Region 1-B Area Agency on Aging, Tri-County Office on Aging, U.P. Area Agency on Aging UPCAP Services, and the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition to do nursing home diversion and Medicaid spend-down diversion. Deputy Director Brey gave a detailed explanation on how the partners with chosen.

Deputy Director Brey stated that as part of the proposed program, OSA will:

- ❖ Identify, track and target strategies for older adults at-risk of nursing home placement and Medicaid spend-down;
- ❖ Re-engineer reporting systems to support person-centered planning and self-determination within the Michigan Aging Network;
- ❖ Increase consumer control with re-direction of federal and state funds for flexible spending options, enhance PCP/SD trainings and evaluate effectiveness of PCP/SD systems; and,
- ❖ Implement single entry point systems to improve access to aging services through peer mentoring and collaborative learning processes.

Deputy Director Brey outlined the project, including the workgroups and their responsibilities in developing the outcomes required by AoA. An evaluation will be completed at the end of the project with AoA requesting that at least one person actually experience the nursing home diversion approach.

Deputy Director Brey noted that experience from the grant will hopefully lead to formal implementation of nursing home diversion practices throughout the Michigan Aging Network. At that time, proposed revisions to statewide operating standards developed by OSA with input, review and comment from all interested parties will be presented to the Commission for adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the AoA Nursing Home Diversion Grants and seconded by Commissioner Wright. The Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A lengthy discussion followed with Commissioner Verma inquiring how the grant will benefit the other non-participating area agencies on aging. Deputy Director Brey stated that all area agencies on aging are invited to participate in the collaborative learning sessions, but must do so on a voluntary basis. Also, area agencies on aging will be provided regular updates on grant progress at their monthly meetings with OSA. Deputy Director Brey also noted that OSA will be enhancing the Aging Information

System to better track data gathered pertaining to individuals identified as being at-risk of nursing home placement.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

State Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Advisory Committee Recommendation

Director Gire gave a brief overview of the LTC Ombudsman Advisory Committee, which was formed to review the organizational structure of the Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (MLTCOP) and make recommendations regarding the best way to provide LTC Ombudsman services in Michigan for the future.

Director Gire introduced Hollis Turnham, Susan Steinke, and Sarah Slocum to present the proposed recommendations to restructure the MLTCOP.

Ms. Turnham introduced Sara Hunt, Alison Hirschel, and Doug Chalgian as committee members who were unable to attend today's meeting.

Ms. Turnham and Ms. Steinke reviewed the recommendations and the rationale of the recommendations from the committee to the Commission. Ms. Turnham noted the committee did an extensive background review that included studying several reports on the development of state ombudsman programs from around the country. The committee also held a stakeholder input session on August 26, 2005 where local ombudsmen, attorneys, area agency on aging staff, AARP, Michigan Department of Community Health, and Michigan Department of Human Services, long term care provider groups and others engaged in dialogue about the future structure of the MLTCOP. Copies of the comments have been provided to the Commission.

The committee then developed a preliminary draft report for review and analysis by various boards and agencies. On August 17, 2007 the committee published its final draft proposal to restructure the MLTCOP and submitted it for 30 days of public comment. Ms. Steinke noted that approximately half of the comments received supported all or parts of the recommendations. Ms. Steinke further noted that stated areas of concern are being addressed in the final proposal that will be submitted to Director Gire.

A discussion followed regarding the structure of the board of directors, budget, staff, and other elements of the proposal. Commissioners also expressed interest in how other state ombudsman programs are operated.

Merit Award Trust Fund Allocation – Report

Dan Doezenia, OSA staff, returned to update the Commission on the Merit Award Trust Fund Allocation to Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC). Mr. Doezenia gave a brief history of how the allocation came about and the rationale behind the disbursement. Mr. Doezenia stated the additional allocation has been used to serve other clients, primarily through two adult day care programs in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Given the information received and the size of the 1-B Planning and Service Area, OSA recommends that MORC continue to receive this additional allocation of Merit Award Trust Funds.

No discussion followed.

Other

Commissioner Verma announced that an "Aged Waived" expo will be held on Saturday, October 27 at Financial Plaza.

Commissioner Wilson announced her local recreational department will be hosting an afternoon of activities to expose older adults to different forms of exercise, such as; Wii games of golf and bowling. Also, on October 27 State Representative Fred Miller will have a long term care town hall meeting at the new Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Commissioner Gardner announced that a long term care issues forum will be held on October 29 at the Capital View Building in downtown Lansing from 9 a.m. until noon. Discussion will be held on the single point of entry (SPE) system, nursing home facility transition under the federal deficit reduction act, and Money Follows the Person program.

Director Gire announced and congratulated the re-appointments of Commissioners Wright, Bieber, Gill, and Wilson.

Commissioners conducted a brief discussion on ways to reduce costs for the Commission. Many of the Commissioners stated they have facilities and are willing to host meetings. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of the regarding the December Commission meeting being held at OSA to allow members to meet with OSA staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on November 16, 2007 at the Office of Services to the Aging, Room 2D, Lansing.

All State Advisory meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pawelski and seconded by Commissioner Verma. Acting Chairperson Walters adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.